



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Fact Sheet**

# American Indian Livestock Feed Program

***What is the purpose of the American Indian Livestock Feed Program (AILFP)?***

The purpose of the AILFP is to provide emergency financial feed assistance to livestock owners on tribal-governed land affected by a natural disaster. Under AILFP, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) contracts with the governments of affected tribes, who administer the program.

The AILFP is funded with \$12.5 million. Payment authority ends when funds have been exhausted, without respect to the date of any application or contract between a tribal government and CCC.

***Regional Approvals***

When a tribal government determines that a livestock feed emergency exists, the tribal government may submit a request to implement the program.

A livestock feed emergency is a situation in which a natural disaster causes more than a 35 percent reduction in the feed produced in a region for a defined period. Natural disaster conditions include:

- Damaging weather (drought, hail, excessive moisture, freeze, tornado, hurricane, excessive wind, or combination thereof);
- Adverse natural occurrence (earthquake, flood, or volcanic eruption);
- Related conditions (including, but not limited to heat or insect infestation that occur as a result of damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence).

***What is Not Covered?***

Feed emergencies resulting from overgrazing or other factors are not qualifying natural disasters.

***How Regional Loss is Determined***

A survey of livestock feed loss in the region is performed by tribal representatives in cooperation with representatives from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) state office.

Survey results accompany the completed contract, along with weather data substantiating the affects of the disaster, maps of the general and affected regions, and any other documentation (newspaper articles, etc.).

***Tribal Government Responsibilities***

After receiving approval of a region for AILFP, tribal governments:

- Advise livestock owners in the approved region that they may be eligible for payments, in addition to the method and requirements for filing applications;
- Announce signup dates and provide locations for signup;
- Accept payment applications from livestock owners;
- Determine whether the information provided by individual livestock owners on payment applications is accurate and complete and whether the owner is eligible for AILFP payments;

- Submit accurate and complete payment applications to the designated FSA office for payment processing.

***Eligible livestock***

Eligible livestock are:

- Beef and dairy cattle;
- Buffalo and beefalo maintained on the same basis as beef cattle;
- Equine animals used for food or used directly in the production of food;
- Sheep;
- Swine;
- Goats.

***Eligible Owners***

Eligible livestock owners are persons who:

- Own or lease tribal governed land in the approved region;
- Have eligible livestock on tribal governed land in the approved region at the time of the qualifying natural disaster;
- Meet all other eligibility requirements in 7 CFR §1439.907.

Livestock owners need not be American Indian nor a member of a tribe in order to receive payments under this program.

### **Required Documentation**

Livestock owners applying for AILFP must provide information on livestock feed purchases and provide receipts that reflect those purchases.

All sales of livestock feed must also be reported.

Tribal governments may apply for AILFP benefits as an owner of eligible livestock. Payment applications for tribally-owned livestock must be approved by CCC.

### **Payments**

Payments are based on the smaller of either:

- 30 percent of the Animal Unit Day (AUD) minus sales of livestock feed;  
or
- Actual livestock feed purchases, minus sales of livestock feed.

Payments are made directly to the applicant.

### **Where and How to Sign Up**

Contact the tribal government on whose tribal governed land the livestock were located at the time of the disaster for signup dates and locations.

Further information is available at local FSA offices and USDA Service Centers. These are usually listed in telephone books under "United States Government, Department of Agriculture." You may also obtain information from FSA's Home Page at:  
**[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

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